

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a communication system a method for routing bearer traffic between a 3G network and a 2G network, the method for routing bearer traffic comprising the steps of:

if a calling party is roaming into a first network, determining by [[a]] the first network a local gateway of the first network and in proximity to a calling party;
sending the bearer traffic by the first network to the local gateway; and
directly routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway to a second network in proximity to a called party.

2. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is further included a step of determining a location of the called party.

3. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first network includes the 2G network currently serving the calling party.

4. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 3, wherein the second network includes the 3G network currently serving the called party.

5. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first network includes the 3G network currently serving the calling party.

6. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 5, wherein the second network includes the 2G network currently serving the called party.

7. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of directly routing the bearer traffic includes a step of inhibiting transmission of the bearer traffic to a home gateway, if the calling party is roaming.

8. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is further included a step of routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway through an inter-connect network between the first and second networks to the called party.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for routing bearer traffic between a first network and a second network, the method for routing bearer traffic comprising the steps of:

if a calling party is roaming in the first network, determining by the first network a local gateway of the first network and in proximity to [[a]] the calling party;
and

directly routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway to the second network in proximity to a called party.

10. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein there is further included a step of sending the bearer traffic by the first network to the local gateway.

11. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step of directly routing the bearer traffic includes a step of inhibiting transmission of the bearer traffic to a home gateway, if the calling party is roaming.

12. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein there is further included a step of determining a location of the called party.

13. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first network includes a 2G network currently serving the calling party.

14. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second network includes a 3G network currently serving the called party.

15. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first network includes a 3G network currently serving the calling party.

16. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 15, wherein the second network includes a 2G network currently serving the called party.

17. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein there is further included a step of routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway through an inter-connect network between the first and second networks to the called party.

18-20. (Cancelled)